

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-17. (Canceled)

18. **(New)** A fuel filter, in particular a diesel filter, comprising
- at least one fuel inlet (2),
 - at least one fuel outlet (3),
 - water separator means,
 - at least one sump (4, 32, 44, 51),
 - a water outlet (5, 41, 52) associated with the sump,
 - control means (6) for the water outlet (5, 41, 52), and
 - means for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off.
19. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a filter for cleaning the fuel, in which the sump is associated with the clean side of the filter.
20. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a filter for cleaning the fuel, in which the sump is associated with the dirty side of the filter.

21. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising an activated charcoal filter (54), for filtering the water to be drained from the sump (51).
22. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 19, further comprising an activated charcoal filter (54), for filtering the water to be drained from the sump (51).
23. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 20, further comprising an activated charcoal filter (54), for filtering the water to be drained from the sump (51).
24. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a water absorption and evaporation unit, open to the environment, downstream of the water outlet (4).
25. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein water absorption and evaporation unit has a container (11) open to the environment in an upper region.
26. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has an absorbent material (12).
27. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 25, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has an absorbent material (12).
28. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material (12) at least partly comprises an absorbent paper.

29. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material (12) is at least partly spongelike.

30. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has a large evaporation surface area.

31. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising chemicals for binding the contaminants, which are provided in the sump and/or in a chamber downstream of the water outlet.

32. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a controllable valve (46, 53) is located at the water outlet (5, 41, 52).

33. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a valve (43, 46) actuated by a floating body (42).

34. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a pump at the water outlet (5).

35. **(New)** The fuel filter according to claim 34, wherein the pump is a volumetric pump.

36. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising at least one water level sensor (7, 8, 31, 33, 34), located in the region of the sump (4, 32, 44, 51), for controlling the water outlet (5).

37. (New) The fuel filter according to claim 36, further comprising two water level sensors (7, 8, 31, 33, 34).